Appl. No. 09/942,352
Amdt. dated November 28, 2005
Reply to final Office action of September 2, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-18. (Canceled).

19.   (Currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

a plurality of computer components;

a plurality of biometric sensors;

a ~~remotely located~~ control unit coupled to said plurality of biometric sensors; and

a plurality of locks coupled to and controlled by said control unit, wherein the control unit operates the locks by authenticating biometric data received from the biometric sensors;

wherein each lock prevents a corresponding computer component from being removed from the computer system unless the control unit authenticates biometric data received from a biometric sensor associated with the lock~~each of said plurality of biometric sensors and locks are associated with corresponding computer componentsand said plurality of locks prevent said plurality of computer components from being removed from said computer system unless authorized by the remotely located control unit~~.

20.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein at least one or more of said plurality of biometric sensors comprise a fingerprint scanner.

21.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein at least one or more of said biometric sensors comprise an iris scanner.

22.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein one or more of said plurality of locks comprise an electromechanical lock.

23.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 19 further including a registry stored in memory accessible by said control unit, said registry including a biometric template for each person authorized to unlock one or more of the plurality of locks.

24.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 23 wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity of a person that has activated one of the plurality of biometric sensors by using the templates stored in said registry.

25.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein said control unit unlocks one of the plurality of locks if said control unit successfully verifies the authenticity of a person.

26.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 23 wherein said control unit maintains the lock in a locked state if said control unit cannot verify the authenticity of a person.

27.   (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 19 wherein each of said plurality of biometric sensors is associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of computer components.

28.   (Currently amended) A security method for a computer system including a plurality of computer components ~~each including an associated biometric sensor and a control unit coupled to the plurality of biometric sensors~~, comprising:

      <u>registering a first user's biometric to access a computing component</u>
          <u>logically;</u>
      <u>registering a second user's biometric to access the computer component</u>
          <u>physically;</u>

authenticating a user identity using biometrics;

if the user identity is authenticated as the first user, permitting logical access to the computer component, but not physical access; and

if the user identity is authenticated as the second user, permitting physical access to the computer component, but not logical access.

~~(a)   using one of the biometric sensors to verify the authenticity of a person;~~

~~(b)   sending a signal to the control unit in order to verify the person; and~~

~~(c)   permitting use of the computer component associated with the biometric sensor used in (a) if the person is successfully verified by the control unit.~~

29.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein authenticating a user identity using biometrics comprises using a fingerprint sensor~~at least one of said biometric sensors comprises a fingerprint sensor~~.

30.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein authenticating a user identity using biometrics comprises using a iris scanner~~at least one of said biometric sensors comprises an iris scanner~~.

31.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer ~~component~~ components comprises a storage device.

32.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer components comprises a storage device and wherein permitting logical access to the computer component comprises ~~(b) includes~~ permitting a user to read data from but not write data to said storage device.

33.   (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer components comprises a storage device and wherein permitting logical

access to the computer component comprises (b) includes permitting a user to write data to but not read data from said storage device.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer components comprises a storage device and wherein permitting logical access to the computer component comprises (b) includes permitting a user to read data from and write data to said storage device.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer component components comprises a CD ROM.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein at least one of said computer component components comprises a hard disk drive.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said authenticating a user identity using biometrics (a) is performed when a software program needs to access one of said computer components.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37 wherein at least one of said computer components comprises a storage device.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28 39 further comprising wherein (d) includes acquiring a user's biometric image from said person and associating a security access code with said biometric image.

41. (Currently amended) A biometric access system for a computer system that includes a plurality of computer devices, comprising:

a plurality of biometric sensors, each of said plurality of biometric sensors associated with one of said plurality of computer devices;

> a control unit coupled to said plurality of biometric sensors, said control unit controlling logical access and physical access to the plurality of computer devices in said computer system based on signals from one or more of said biometric sensors.

42. (Previously presented) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein at least one of said plurality of biometric sensors comprises a fingerprint scanner.

43. (Previously presented) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein at least one of said biometric sensors comprises an iris scanner.

44. (Previously presented) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said control unit permits a person to access one of said plurality of computer devices based on a signal from the biometric sensor associated with the computer device that the person is trying to access.

45. (Previously presented) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein said control unit prevents a person from accessing one of said plurality of computer devices based on a signal from its associated biometric sensor.

46. (Original) The biometric access system of claim 41 further including a registry accessible by said control unit, said registry including biometric templates of people that are permitted use of various of said computer devices.

47. (Original) The biometric access system of claim 46 wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity of a person that has activated a biometric sensor by using the templates stored in said registry.

48. (Previously presented) The biometric access system of claim 47 wherein said control unit permits a user to use one of said plurality of computer devices if said control unit successfully verifies the authenticity of a person.

49.   (Previously presented) The biometric access system of claim 48 wherein at least one of said plurality of computer devices comprises a storage device.

50.   (Previously presented) The biometric access system of claim 47 wherein said control unit prevents a user from using one of said plurality of computer devices if said control unit cannot verify the authenticity of the person.

51.   (Previously presented) The biometric access system of claim 41 wherein at least one of the computer devices comprises a storage device.

52.-63. (Canceled).

64.   (Currently amended) A security system for a server rack computer system comprising a plurality of computer equipmentservers, said security system comprising:

    a plurality of biometric sensors;

    a control unit coupled to said plurality of biometric sensors; and

    a plurality of locks associated with one of said plurality of biometric sensors, the plurality of locks coupled to and controlled by said control unit;

    wherein each of said plurality of biometric sensors and said plurality of locks are associated with one of said plurality of computer equipment, each of said locks preventing its corresponding computer equipment from being removed from said computer system and said lock can be unlocked upon a person being authenticated by the control unit via its corresponding biometric sensor

    wherein the control unit selectively controls the locks to allow physical removal of each server based on data received from at least one of the biometric sensors,

wherein the control unit selectively controls logical access to each server based on data received from at least one of the biometric sensors.

65. (Currently amended) A security system as defined in claim 64, wherein the biometric sensors control unit is are located remotely from the computer systemserver rack.

66. (Currently amended) A security system as defined in claim 64, further comprising:

a rack for holding the plurality of computer equipmentservers.

67. (Currently amended) A security system as defined in claim 66, wherein the plurality of locks help secure each of the plurality of computer equipment servers to the rack.

68. (Canceled).

69. (Previously presented) A security system as defined in claim 65, further including a registry stored in memory accessible by said control unit, said registry including a template for each person authorized to unlock one or more of the plurality of locks.

70. (Previously presented) A security system as defined in claim 69, wherein said control unit verifies the authenticity of a person that has activated one of the plurality of biometric sensors by using the templates stored in said registry.

71. (Previously presented) A security system as defined in claim 64, wherein the biometric sensor is selected from among a fingerprint sensor and an iris scanner.